

Pending Applications for Notary Public

3200. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for notary public still pending for approval;

(b) whether Government have set up a cell to dispose of these applications within a time-bound programme;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in disposal of these applications; and

(d) the time by when these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The number of applications for notary public still pending for consideration is 1,350.

(b) A Separate Notary Cell has been set up to expeditiously dispose of applications for appointment of notaries.

(c) and (d) Appointment of a notary is a statutory appointment which is done under the Notaries Act and the rules made thereunder, which prescribe detailed procedure to be followed for appointment of a notary. Since appointment of a notary involves taking of various steps including obtaining the views of the concerned State Bar Councils, which takes considerable time, it is not possible to fix any definite time-frame for disposal of applications. Recently, a large number of applications have been received, due to which pendency of applications has increased.

Use of information technology in courts

3201. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use information technology in courts to speed up disposal of cases; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Supreme Court of India, 18 High Courts and 430 District Courts have been computerised as per information made available by the National Information Centre (NIC). Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary, an amount of Rs. 208.28 lakhs has been released by the Government during the year 2000-2001 to various States/UTs for implementation of Information Technology in courts.

The Supreme Court and all High Courts have been interconnected through NICNET. Daily cause lists are being generated through computer. Important reported cases of the Supreme Court are available on NICNET. Facilitation centres/enquiry counters have been established in the Supreme Court, and the High Courts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Calcutta and Andhra Pradesh. Other High Courts have been requested to set up facilitation centres/enquiry counters.

In the district/subordinate judiciary following areas have been identified for computerization viz:

- Case File Monitoring,
- Certified Copies,
- Report Generation,
- Library and Database Resource Sharing,
- E-Mail Facility,
- Personnel Information System and
- Pay Roll and Accounts processing.

The recommendations of the First National Judicial pay Commission on the use of Information Technology which, *inter-alia*, includes, constitution of a Task Force consisting of senior Judges of the High Court and a computer expert for preparing a comprehensive action plan for implementation of Information Technology in District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto have been commended to all the High Courts. All States/UTs have also been requested to provide requisite training to Court's staff in computerisation with the

assistance of the NIC. In this connection Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs has written to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts and the Chief Ministers of all the States on 26th June, 2000.

Financial Aid to CPT for Dredging Operations

3202. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided in 1997 in the Cabinet that the Calcutta Port Trust will receive Rs. 200 cr. annually for dredging and increasing the draft of the river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of implementations and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Cabinet in 1994 decided to reimburse 100% of the cost on items directly related to river dredging and river maintenance as well as the cost incurred on items directly related to maintenance, dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia from the year 1992-93 onwards provided that the depreciation on capital expenditure on Haldia Channel dredging will not qualify for subsidy and to meet the expenditure "on account" payment upto 90% of the amount payable towards subsidy during previous year may be made to the Port Trust in the beginning of the following year.

(c) The decision of the Cabinet is being implemented.

Development of Chennai Port Trust

3203. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to develop Chennai Port Trust; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a)